

1897/98

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

JUNE, 1898



TO THE HONORABLE,

The President and Trustees of Miami University in Session at Oxford, Ohio, June 7, 1898.



GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor herewith to submit my seventh annual report of the condition of Miami University:

JOHN REILY KNOX.

First of all it is my painful duty to recognize the loss of this institution in the death of the honored and beloved alumnus and trustee, Hon. John Reily Knox. Mr. Knox was a graduate in the class of 1839. From 1869 he served continuously as a trustee until his death, which occurred at his home in Greenville, Ohio, on February 7, 1898. His genial, sunny spirit won for him the admiration and love of all who knew him. His devotion to Miami was constant. He loved the institution and found great pleasure in her service. I hope that this Board will put on record a suitable expression of its appreciation of his character and services.

THE FACULTY.

During the year the work of the Faculty has proceeded without serious interruption, other than the usual interference from an occasional day's illness or unforeseen circumstances against which no provision was possible.

During the year two members have had leave of absence. Prof. A. L. Treadwell has spent the year in research work in the University of Chicago, and has been able to accomplish some valuable results. He has been appointed as a summer instructor in the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Holl, a recognition very gratifying to all his friends and to the University. During his absence the work has been carried by Mr. Frank L. Rainey in a most acceptable manner. Mr. Rainey is a graduate of Purdue

University. After graduation he was engaged in high school work and later was, for two years, a graduate student in the University of Chicago, his special work being in Bacteriology. During the year he has established himself in the confidence of the members of the Faculty, and I am glad to testify to his efficient services and to the very cordial relations that have been maintained throughout the year.

Prof. W. B. Langsdorf has also been absent for the year, owing to the condition of his mother's health. He has now returned and will resume his duties at the opening of the next year. The work in Latin has, for the year, been carried by Mr. Alfred H. Upham, of the class of 1897. The appointment of Mr. Upham was due to the excellence of his scholarship, our confidence in his character and the promise of teaching ability of a high order. These expectations have been realized in Mr. Upham. He has shown ability to teach, to maintain discipline and has done the work with great credit to himself.

The only other matter that needs attention in this topic is the election of a professor to the chair of French. In my last report reference was made to the subject and the following action was taken by the Board:

"The Committee agrees with the President that it is extremely important that such a department separate from that of German should be established and that the President of the University is authorized in the next annual catalogue to announce the same, to begin at the opening of the University in the fall of 1898, and that he recommend to this Board at its next annual meeting a suitable person to fill the position."

A large correspondence has been carried on during the year. I have had personal interviews with a number of men. The matter has come in my mind to be a choice between four or five of the most prominent candidates. I have the credentials of these gentlemen, but for personal reasons ask to be excused from making a recommendation to the Board. I shall be glad to present the credentials to the Board, or a committee with a statement concerning the merits of the men. In case of new appointments it is my judgment that they should be made for a period of three or five years before they become permanent. One year is hardly a sufficient probation.

It is proper here to add that there is a difference of opinion

among the members of the Board and also among the members of the Faculty as to the advisability of appointing a professor of French. There are those who are in favor of increasing the existing salaries, while others would favor making additions in other departments. Inasmuch as the general question is discussed elsewhere in this report, I do no more at present than call attention to the diversity of opinion.

STUDENTS.

The roll for the current year has been 138. This is an increase of 16 over the roll of last year, and is the largest enrollment since the reopening in 1885. In view of the experience of other colleges this is from the standpoint of numbers a matter of encouragement. A number of other colleges in the central west have not equalled the roll of other years. The year has seen the most serious break in health during my administration. In March at one of the boarding places the use of the impure water of a cistern caused a number of cases of sickness, some of which developed into fevers. All the students, however, have been able to complete the year in as good condition as could have been expected. The call for volunteers has aroused the spirit of the students—a few have left and more are ready. The state of discipline has been good. A few cases of a serious nature have arisen, but have been dealt with in such a way as to leave a wholesome effect. The prospects for next year, so far as can be determined, are good. If we add to the number whose intention is now to return the average enrollment of new students for the past five years, we shall equal and exceed the roll of the present year. This is a conservative estimate and ought to indicate an increase of students for next year. The greatest problem in attendance is found in the lack of a purpose to pursue a full collegiate course and the quality of students thereby enrolling. The students who graduate usually attend five or six years. But most students enrolling come with no purpose of taking a degree. They desire to pursue particular lines of study as a preparation for the study of law or medicine or an introduction to a business life. Some of these students are doing the only thing they can do. Necessity controls. To such students no legitimate objection can be urged. But in many other cases an irregular course is taken either from incompetency or unwillingness to conform to

the requirements of a college curriculum. Into this list you gather nearly all the worthless and troublesome students of college. Fortunately one or at most two years will be found the limit of their attendance. Miami has for three years now been standing steadily against this irregularity and has been holding steadfastly to the catalogue statement that no student will be enrolled in the college department except upon two conditions—first, that he be an avowed candidate for a degree, and second, that he shall have completed in full all preparatory work. These principles have kept a large number of students on the irregular list. If we enrolled men with conditions as some colleges do our “college” list would be nearly doubled. In our catalogue we have emphasized to the utmost a student’s irregularities. This condition has grown out of the fact that but few students enroll who are fitted for any class, much less for the Freshman class. A comparative study of college catalogues will reveal the fact that Miami is not worse in this regard than other colleges. The problem is essentially the same, but most colleges offer a variety of courses with unequal requirements for entrance, so that a student can enter some one of the courses. The result is that the lighter courses are most liberally patronized. Three years ago our Faculty adopted the present rule and cut our college roll to 32 students. It reached 42 in the present year. Next year we shall show another increase and reach the number of 50 students without a condition. It has been slow but steady, and will in the end put us on solid ground, provided we can solve the problem of fitting students for entrance to the Freshman year.

THE PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.

These statements lead to the consideration of what I regard as the most vital problem before us—viz.: the preparatory department. Here is where, in my judgment, Miami has been and now is weakest. The object of a preparatory department should be to fit students for entrance to the Freshman class. Our preparatory has been both too much and too little like a high school. In one sense it has been a parallel to a high school course with none of the advantages of supervision and direction. On the other hand, students coming into our preparatory classes with irregular preparation from many of our country and village schools have carried these same irregularities up into their col-

lege course. The preparatory department has simply taught them in classes. It has not fitted them for college by removing their irregularities and preparing them for a regular and steady progress through the four years of college life. This has, in my judgment, been a distinct loss both to the student and to the institution. We can not accomplish the desired results by a change in the principal or a teacher or two. It involves a change in the purpose, method and management of the entire department. My opinion is that suitable rooms should be provided, one of the dormitories fitted up as a home for preparatory students and the preparatory teaching force arranged with a view of fitting men for college. Inasmuch as few of the high schools and none of the village or country schools in the district from which Miami will continue to draw her patronage do now prepare for entrance to college or have any prospect of doing so, it seems to me important that we meet the conditions as they are without much regard to the current talk that the preparatory school is a thing of the past.

THE COURSES OF STUDY.

The burning questions in educational gatherings for the past five years have been those of entrance requirements and the contents of the curriculum. At the recent meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools held in Chicago two important actions were taken. The first approved the plan of the continuous study of English throughout the four years of the high school and the first two years of college as required work. The second approved the plan of admitting to Freshman "any student who has completed a good four years' high school course, no matter what grouping of studies may have constituted his course."

This, it will be observed, is a pretty radical measure, but it marks a distinct tendency in the state universities throughout the northwest. President Eliot has announced that Harvard is committed to this principle and will put it into operation. (See report for 1896-'97, page 93 et. sq.) These actions all go to show that in the near future there will be a lack of uniformity in entrance requirements, and therefore a lack of uniformity in college courses. It has seemed to me that some changes in our courses could be made to advantage. I should favor a change that would

make all courses in the college department three hour courses and so arrange them that every professor would be prepared to give as a minimum twelve hours work. This would accomplish everything now accomplished and at the same time give greater flexibility to the curriculum. This arrangement would increase the opportunity for electives in the upper years and at the same time improve the quality of the work by emphasizing the power of choice. The question as to what courses should be offered is not to be overlooked. I recognize the limitations of a small Faculty and would not sacrifice thoroughness to breadth. The question involves a study of conditions. I venture to suggest that in some departments elective work might cover the same territory as the preparatory course with a view of preparing men to teach these subjects. This would meet the demand of students who are preparing to teach and would enable us to apply in a practical way the principles of a sound pedagogy. For example, why should not a Junior in college study with profit an elective course in Cicero and Vergil with a view to his preparation for teaching it? This would involve a different problem from that before the teacher preparing a boy for college. If successfully carried out it would greatly improve the teaching of Latin in our secondary schools and result in benefit to the college teacher by furnishing him a better class of students. There are other subjects that illustrate these principles quite as well. If put into practice they would, in my judgment, do much to remove the odium that is justly attached to the present methods of teaching pedagogy and would also bring the colleges into a closer and more helpful relation to the schools that are their constant source of supply.

Then, too, we have the question of the purpose of the institution. Should a college like Miami draw a distinct line between college and university work and insist upon it? A professor, in following what is agreeable to himself may disturb the unity of the curriculum. This danger is always present in the elective system. Shall certain departments become semi-technical schools or professional schools? The tendency in many colleges is to become a mere school, and not a very good one at that. A college should have and seek to maintain a college character that dominates in every department.

I would be the last to recommend any revolution at Miami,

but in my judgment the time is ripe for a careful study of our curriculum. This should be done by the Board through a committee, or perhaps better through a joint committee of Trustees and Faculty, with a view of adapting the course of study to the progress of modern education.

THE LIBRARY.

The general condition of the library will be reported upon by the librarian. I deem it my duty to call the attention to the manner of expending the money appropriated. At the last meeting of the Board it became apparent that there was some dissatisfaction with the way the money was spent. Accordingly the Faculty has made a change in its recommendation. This recommendation is, however, unsatisfactory to the Faculty and may be equally so to the Board. The plan for some years has been to set aside a definite portion for the purchase of periodicals, for binding, for the purchase of old and rare books, for incidentals and to allot an equal amount to each of the departments represented in the college Faculty. We understood the Board to object to this equal distribution on the ground that the special interests of the library were sacrificed to the more general interests. It seemed to be the opinion of the Board that too many technical books were bought. The Faculty had tried at times a general fund, but found it unsatisfactory. Professors felt that in the purchases from the general fund discriminations were made against certain departments. Other members of the Faculty believe strongly in the value of technical books as making the department strong. The purpose of the library is believed to be chiefly and primarily for the teacher and secondarily for the student. Under the plan of equal division the tendency was to buy books strictly within the department for which money was appropriated. The result was that for some departments not represented in our Faculty very few books were bought. Under such a plan valuable books not closely identified with a particular department could not receive a consideration. The Board has not presented any plan. It has only been generous in its appropriation. The Faculty has not come to any agreement further than offer an unsatisfactory report as a basis for discussion by the Board. We are not in a quarrel as to the library, but we are in a perplexity. If the Board can solve the problem we shall gladly

apply to it the statement of the psalmist: "I have more understanding than all my teachers."

ATHLETICS.

During the past year the general condition of athletics has been satisfactory. The whole matter is in the hands of a Board of Control consisting of three members of the Faculty, three students elected by their associates, and the Physical Director. This Board like all other college organizations is under the general supervision of the Faculty.

So far the Athletic Association has paid all its bills and is free of debt. This is rather more than many colleges can accomplish. The interference with work is often an annoyance but not serious except in cases of students who would without the presence of athletics be the cause of annoyance. The work in the gymnasium has been required for two hours a week of all students unless excused by the Faculty. The work so far has been an experiment and there are not sufficient data upon which to make any recommendations for a permanent policy. There is a feeling among the students which I share that it was a mistake to make the gymnasium privileges free. Another year we may be able to bring in a definite report on the subject.

THE CAMPUS.

Last year fifty trees were planted and about four-fifths of them lived. This year fifty more have been planted. These trees were chiefly elm, ash, maple and a few smaller trees of an ornamental character. In addition to this the young walnut trees springing up over the campus have been preserved. I have had some cement sidewalk laid as a start in this direction. The aim has been to keep in mind possible buildings in the future and the natural beauty of the grounds.

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Two years ago I referred to this matter in my report. The University was opened as a college in 1824. The anniversary would therefore come in 1899. Hon. Whitelaw Reid, LL. D., of the class of 1856 has consented to deliver the commencement address on that occasion. If we are to have a suitable celebration, a committee of arrangements should be appointed and given power to act. I suggest that it would be appropriate to have some histori-

cal addresses and that some of them should be of such character as to warrant their publication. There are alumni now living who could furnish data that will not be accessible after their death. Much of this would be of interest and of value.

I have reason to believe that we can secure accommodation for our guests at the colleges for women provided we arrange our anniversary for the week immediately following their commencements. The reasons for such a recognition of our history I need not present. I trust the matter will have careful consideration.

THE J. P. WIDNEY GIFT.

During the year the Greek Department has been the recipient of a very handsome donation at the hands of James P. Widney, M. D., L. L. D., a student in 1861-62. The gift was a draft for one hundred dollars payable to the treasurer of Miami University with a letter of instructions that the money be expended for books and illustrative material for the Greek department. Accordingly Dr. Ebeling and myself have proceeded to expend the money. A detailed report will be furnished by Dr. Ebeling. In accordance with our custom it will be necessary for the Board to put an item of \$100 in the appropriation ordinance to cover the amount of this gift. I suggest also that it would be appropriate for the Board to make a suitable recognition of Dr. Widney's generosity.

COMMENCEMENT ARRANGEMENTS.

By rule of the Board Commencement occurs on the third Thursday of June. Upon my recommendation last year the time was changed for this year as an experiment. The reasons suggesting the change were that the commencements of the two colleges for women occurring a week earlier made some confusion and it was thought a trial for one year might furnish evidence for a permanent policy. There may be serious objections in the mind of the Board against such a change. For next year my judgment is that we ought to return to the former date in view of the anniversary exercises and the necessity of arranging for the entertainment of our guests.

Another matter of importance is the programme for Commencement Day. The Board has not made any appropriation for the expense Mr. Herron and myself have acted as a com-

mittee of arrangements and occasionally I have had to ask for an appropriation sufficient to pay the expenses of a speaker. It has been our aim so far as possible to secure alumni or former students appealing to their loyalty as the chief motive for the service. There has been a desire on the part of some to have men professionally in the business of making addresses. Such men usually charge from \$75 to \$100 and the committee has not felt warranted in the expenditure. Others desire that alumni and students be selected. This matter becomes of some importance in view of the fact that the students desire to be excused from speaking at Commencement, and that it is becoming quite the fashion to make the Commencement simply an occasion to hear some man of reputation. For this year the Faculty voted to grant the request of the Senior class to be excused from speaking. This was done as an experiment. We recognized the precedent as, perhaps, against the opinion of some of the members of the Board. But the question comes up each year and the Faculty felt that the general policy should be agreed upon by the Board. I hope therefore that the Board will consider the question of Commencement arrangements for the future and outline a policy to be pursued.

SUNDRY ITEMS.

The committee appointed to confer with the Board of Education of Oxford has nothing to report further than that nothing has been accomplished. The Board through its committee expressed to your committee its unwillingness to adopt any plan looking to the union of the Oxford High School with our Preparatory department and the whole matter was then dropped. In the matter of the South Salem Academy nothing has been done owing to doubt as to our ability to offer any substantial aid.

There is nothing of importance to report concerning the Literary Societies. The work has been a little better than in former years and during the winter term the interest well sustained. The department of elocution has maintained its work throughout the year with good results in the men who have taken the instruction. The fact that the work is entirely optional makes the numbers small. The work done by Prof. Chapman is entirely satisfactory and should be continued.

DEGREES.

The Faculty has voted, by and with the consent of the Board of Trustees, to confer the following degrees. We ask your consideration and co-operation.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts upon the following members of the class of 1898:

Emory Leroy Ferris, Jr., Hillsboro.
John Dempsey Garrett, Bell.
Joseph Ardel Goshorn, Shandon.
Archibald Edmund Layman, Piqua.
Henry Sylvester Leonard, Liberty, Ind.
Horace Norton Shofstall, Decatur.

The degree of Bachelor of Science upon the following members of the class of 1898:

Paul DeWitt Hale, Oxford.
Chester Merrill Poor, Jr., Glendale.

The degree of Master of Arts in view of the equivalent of a year's collegiate work and the presentation of an approved thesis:

Mr. Gilbert Alexis Morris, Marion, Ind.
Bachelor of Arts Miami University 1895.
Mr. Alfred Horatio Upham, Eaton, Ohio.
Bachelor of Arts Miami University, 1897.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity upon

Rev. David Rowan Colmery, Los Angeles, Cal.
Bachelor of Arts, Miami University, 1854.
Rev. John Fulton Patterson, Orange, N. J.
Bachelor of Arts, Mt. Union College, 1878.
Rev. James Samuel Todd, Arcata, Cal.
Bachelor of Arts, Miami University, 1864.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Two years ago the legislature of Ohio passed an act providing for the Ohio and Miami University fund. Miami's share from this fund was for the first year \$21,419.49. This made an increase over our receipts under the plan of annual appropriations. The grand duplicate is increasing a little from year to year. We may safely estimate our income as follows:

From the levy.....	\$21,500
From the ground rents.....	6,000
From interest on investment.....	3,800
From incidental and other fees.....	1,700
Total.....	\$33,000

In my judgment the annual income will exceed the amount a little and is liable to a small increase from year to year. Our expenditures may be estimated as based upon the total appropriations for the past five years for ordinary running expenses. These totals are as follows: for 1894, \$25,338.76; for 1895, \$24,169.38; for 1896, \$24,944.36; for 1897, \$24,541.48; for 1898, \$26,383.64. In addition to the above appropriations, the amount appropriated for the gymnasium was \$24,081.72. For the past five years the average annual appropriation for current expenses has been \$25,075.53. We have therefore an excess of income annually amounting to nearly \$8,000. It is safe to say \$7,500. The practical question before the Board is the wise expenditure of this money. It has been given to be expended, not to be hoarded. It ought to be expended in such ways as will best minister to the stability and healthful growth of the institution. From such considerations as have been presented to my mind it is my judgment that the Board ought to adopt a policy that looks beyond the needs of any one year and provide as wisely as possible for the future. In view of these considerations, I venture to suggest to you in this report some desirable improvements as a basis for any action the Board may desire to take.

1. First of all there is the question of increasing the number of men in the Faculty. The Board has already taken action concerning the department of French. We need a professor of History, a professor of Chemistry, and in my judgment, something ought to be done in the interest of Pedagogy.

Then there is the question of salaries. There is a feeling that the salaries paid by the Board are insufficient. I feel that this is not true in the case of the President. That salary ought not to be increased. But it is desirable that professor's salaries should be increased and kept at the highest point consistent with the Board's revenues. I have not considered this question as coming within my jurisdiction, but I may be permitted to say that I am aware of the difference of opinion on this subject and mention it here because I think it should have a consideration in any policy the Board adopts.

2. The change in the policy of the preparatory department. Elsewhere in this report reference is made to this question. I may now add that changes in this department are relatively more

important than in the college department. We should be prepared to meet conditions as they are, and that involves some machinery that will prepare students for four years of college work. Nearly every year reveals the necessity of a teacher for special classes. Our teachers are now fully occupied. These preparatory teachers are more difficult to secure than college teachers, and their work is not less important.

The third suggestion is in the line of an annual lectureship. The isolation of our Faculty, the absence of any environment that is intellectual or stimulating, and such influences as came from a considerable population, all unite to render such a stimulus as would be afforded by a first class lecture course highly desirable. The plan would be to bring to the university each year a man of superior attainments in some department of college instruction who would deliver a series of five or six lectures in his department. The aim would be to benefit directly the Faculty and students. It would not be an effort to secure a series of popular lectures. We should expect representative men from the best colleges in the country and provide for the attendance of both the Faculty and students. A few hundred dollars each year would make this an attractive and valuable part of our work.

4. Another line of improvements is in the material equipment of the institution. In a few years this main building ought to be completed with a wing on the east and thoroughly overhauled and made a modern building. It is neither well lighted, well heated or well arranged. The improvements in the modern school buildings have left us inferior to many High School buildings in the country. It is not a wholesome effect upon a young man's mind to leave a comfortable building at home to find his higher education in less attractive surroundings.

The need of a library building has been dwelt upon heretofore and need now only be mentioned. That should be built before any changes are made in the main building. The crowded condition of Brice Hall and the need of enlarged accommodation make the argument for another science building very clear. The money Mr. Brice put in the science building has earned a very large dividend each year. Another such a building would only serve to increase the efficiency of the first. More than one hundred of our students were at work in Brice Hall this year.

During the past year we have attempted some work in astronomy. Our equipment is good so far as it goes. An observatory large enough to accomodate the department of Mathematics, Mechanical Drawing and Astronomy would be a valuable addition. We are now much cramped for room in this work and have no rooms anywhere that would serve our purpose better. I have taken some pains to inquire into the cost of such a provision and find it not so extravagant as might at first be expected,

One other item I now mention last—that of heating. The Board last June instructed a committee to investigate this question and report. Some conference has been held without expense to the Board with a competent engineer. We have proceeded upon the plan of a central steam heating plant with a power house snfficient in capacity to provide for both light and heat for such buildings as we now have and others in contemplation. It is proposed to build an engine house at a point about 150 feet south of the main building 40x60 feet in dimensions. This building would contain the plant for heating, an electric plant to be installed at some future time and rooms for experimental purposes of the scientific department. From the power house pipes will be run to each of the buildings to be heated; these pipes to be laid in brick trenches, so arranged as to lead from building to building, to make the amount of trenching required a minimum.

The buildings now heated by steam would not be connected at once so that the present boilers may be held as a reserve or be removed as determined later. The buildings not now prepared are to be equipped with suitable radiators and connections. The estimates are based upon a plant suitable for the entire group of buildings and the addition of library and Science Hall with present provision for the main building and the two dormitories. The cost is estimated at \$8000. The cost to install at once a plant for the five buildings as they now are would be about \$12000.

The advantages of such a plant would be two-fold. It would enable us to put modern conveniences in the dormitories. These buildings would then be in demand and produce in rent a revenue that would be far in excess of what we now receive.

They would constitute an attractive feature to people who are looking for a college with good accommodations. The second advantage lies in the fact that our lighting service could be attached to our science work and prove of immense advantage there. From the standpoint of the the university we need to do something that will make our buildings both warm and clean. With the present system we have abundance of dirt and a lack of heat.

In concluding this part of the report let me say that I do not regard all of the improvements suggested as possible, although they are highly desirable. The improvement of the material equipment is so fundamental that I do not see how we can have a proper appreciation of the future of Miami without giving it a careful consideration.

The college hoping to hold its constituency in future must meet three requirements. It must have a first-class material equipment, an efficient and well-classified teaching force and a willingness to meet the needs of a growing civilization. In suggesting the improvements above I have attempted to set forth the needs with such detail that the Board may have the basis on which to formulate a permanent policy.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Appropriations, June, 1897, were as follows:

Title.	Amount.	Unexpended Balance
Salaries	\$17,950 00	
Treasurer.....	300 00	
Secretary	300 00	
Trustees expenses	200 00	Overdraft, \$ 68 90
Care of Grounds	1,000 00	236 25
Repairs of Buildings.....	750 00	Overdraft, 76 64
Janitor Service.....	600 00	
Department of Biology	160 00	
Department of Physics and Chemistry.....	600 00	
Department of Mathematics.....	250 00	210 11
Other Departments	50 00	14 40
Expenses of the President.....	100 00	30 55
Printing and Advertising.....	750 00	Overdraft, 61
Commencement Expenses	150 00	3 50
Coal	600 00	69 04
Electric Light	300 00	49 03
Insurance on Gymnasium	140 00	
Apparatus for Gymnasium.....	300 00	32 10
Painting Roof.....	32 50	
Expenses of Treasurer.. ..	17 14	
Library	1,000 00	
Physical director.....	600 00	
Balance due J. W. Marquardt	114 00	
Taxes.....	120 00	Overdraft, 14
Total Appropriation	\$26,383 64	\$644 98
Less overdrafts as above		146 29
Net balances unexpended.....		498 69
Total amount expended.....		\$25,884 95

In addition to the above the Board provided for the payment of such sum to complete the sewer as should be approved by the building committee. Under this order the committee expended \$458.60. Add to this the amount expended prior to June 1897 \$469.45 and we have the total cost of the sewer to date \$928.05. It may be stated here that so far the filtration plan has worked very satisfactorily.

By an oversight last June no appropriation was made for incidentals. From this account we pay for all our postage, stationery and miscellaneous items. After advising with the president of the Board concerning the omission I proceeded as usual with this account. The amount expended for the year under the title of Incidentals and not reported above is \$469.94. It will be necessary for the Board to approve this expenditure. The vouchers are on file with the secretary.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR.

The department of Mathematics did not use the money appropriated for the current year because of certain plans looking beyond the present needs. Under the rules of the Board all unexpended balances revert to the treasury. I recommend therefore that special consideration be given this department in the new appropriations. The department of Biology has expended the money appropriated. In a letter from Prof. Treadwell his suggestions would call for an appropriation of \$400 with the privilege of continuing the work at Wood's Holl as heretofore. He asks an assistant as heretofore.

In the department of Physics and Chemistry Prof. Snyder asks for an appropriation of \$650, and for an assistant the amount of \$100. I recommend that both these requests be given careful and favorable consideration. In this connection I call attention to the custom of appropriating a certain amount and the fees of the department. It has also been customary to have the fees for breakage given to the department. This last item has not passed through the treasury.

I recommend therefore that in the future all department appropriations be for a definite sum and that fees of all kinds be paid into the treasury.

The following topics are suggested for appropriations :

1. Salaries of Professors.
2. Salary for Instructor in Elocution.
3. Salary for Physical Director.
4. Salary for Tutor in Preparatory Department.
5. Department of Biology and Geology.
6. Department of Physics and Chemistry.
7. Department of Mathematics.
8. Expenses of Trustees.
9. Salary of Treasurer.
10. Salary of Secretary of the Board.
11. The President's expenses.
12. Repairs of Buildings.
13. Care of Grounds.
14. Janitor Service.
15. Printing and advertising.
16. Coal.
17. Light.
18. The Library.
19. Incidentals.
20. Commencement expenses.
21. Any improvements ordered.

With grateful recognition of the goodness of Almighty God, upon whom we are dependent for all progress and prosperity, and with full appreciation of the uniform courtesy and consideration of this Board of Trustees, this report is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor, gentlemen, to be, with great respect.

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM OXLEY THOMPSON.

JUNE 7, 1898.

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